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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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Civic body to aid stray animals and their caregivers who continue to face harassment at the hands of RWAs, neighbours

STRAY COOL

Outreach content to be posted on social media

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Amid rising number of complaints by community animal caretakers over harassment by resident welfare associations (RWAs), the animal husbandry department of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has come up with a new strategy.

The civic agency in collaboration with the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) shall spread awareness pertaining to stray dogs and allied issues.

"We have collaborated with MAHE to spread awareness about topics such as anti rabies vaccinations, animal protection laws, rights of animal feeders, animal birth control rules, street dog management, and so forth.

We will provide inputs to MAHE and the institute will create social media awareness through various media. This content will be posted regularly on MAHE's as well as BBMP's websites and social media platforms," said a senior official from the animal husbandry department.

This measure has been taken after the officials received many complaints regarding harassment by RWAs and other issues related to street dog management recently.

"We are keeping an eye on the strays and will ensure their welfare
— official, BBMP

Earlier this year, the department, in collaboration with animal welfare NGOs in the city, had launched a physical awareness drive to combat animal cruelty incidents in the city, especially those involving street dogs. The physical drive in association with Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust is available free-of-cost for housing societies.

"People can contact the concerned assistant zonal director and Sahavarthin trust to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

Blowing in the wind

How state pollution board will intensify air quality monitoring

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a bid to intensify its efforts to monitor air quality in the city and curb industrial emissions, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board will be procuring additional equipment and upgrading its laboratories.

Taking into account the rise in industrial pollution, the KSPCB has devised the plan to procure the specialised equipment and upgrade the existing labs to meet the requirements.

In this regard, the state pollution board floated a tender for the aforesaid procurement of field equipment so as to intensify its efforts to rein in industrial emissions and supply additional lab equipment for upgrading its air testing laboratory.

As per the tender, apart from procuring devices such as particulate matter sampler for PM10 with calibrator, particulate matter sampler for PM2.5 with calibrator, portable VOC analyser, stack monitoring kit with glass probe and heat holder, the KSPCB is also planning to set up 15 weather monitoring stations. To upgrade the lab equipment, KSPCB is procuring about 13 pieces of lab equipment.

Using the equipment and upgraded lab, the board will be able to monitor PM10, PM2.5 & gaseous emissions emanating from industries.

As part of the tender, the agency will be responsible for the installation of each

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Laugh out loud

Get ready to awaken the comedy enthusiast inside you through the fantastic blend of witty observations, relatable anecdotes, and clever punchlines by Jaspreet Singh, the Indian stand-up comic renowned for his innocent looks and razor-sharp observational skills. Drawing inspiration from his personal anecdotes, Jaspreet's comedy journey traces back to his childhood fascination with the wit of comedic icons like Bhagwant Mann and Johnny Lever. **When: March 24, 7 pm; Where: Fan Park, 2nd Floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia**

02 A shopaholic's getaway

An Artisans Bazaar, organised by Grand Flia, is underway at Chitrakala Parishat with designer clothes, a variety of household items, hosieries meant for summer, toys, and artefacts all under one roof. Lifestyle influencer Veekshith Gowda kicked off the multi-variety event on Friday. Artisans from different parts of the country have arrived at this 10-day exhibit, showcasing a worthy celebration of arts and crafts.
When: Until March 31; Where: Chitrakala Parishat

Usha Uthup graces the city

Alive India by Aurko-Bangalore's band wrapped up its second concert with a performance by singer Usha Uthup at Garuda Mall. Supratiek Ghosh, Founder of Aurko, said, "Alive India thrives on the concept of 'Sing to Save, Perform for a Cause', and so far, our audience has been generous enough to propel this aim. Our Musicians Social Responsibility (MSR) initiative is shaping India's next generation of musicians. And with many more such concerts awaited, Alive India is on a fast track to spread its message nationwide. Usha Uthup collaborated with four generations of extraordinary singers from all across India. The musical extravaganza is dedicated to aiding aspiring musicians by offering them music education and essential assistance, aligned with their motto. This charitable initiative provides crucial support such as training, equipment, and lodging to young musicians, enhancing their opportunities for future employment." — BMB

This Holi, paint the town red, but take precautions

30-40% increase in skin allergy cases yearly post-Holi, say city hospitals; those with dry eyes and who wear contacts are advised to be extra careful

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Synthetic colours are full of chemicals such as lead, mercury, copper sulphate, mica, and asbestos

Playing with Holi colours may be fun, but health experts in the city have a word of caution about chemicals in synthetic colours that can harm the eyes and skin. Doctors say these chemicals can cause severe allergies. Extreme heat and sweating may disrupt the skin barrier, causing the chemicals to be absorbed more easily into the skin and sometimes into the bloodstream.

City hospitals say they notice a 30 to 40 per cent increase in skin allergy cases post-Holi every year. "The number of patients with skin issues increases every year after the festival. We get youngsters walking in with skin rashes, from red patches to eczema (a kind of reaction to boils on the skin). Cases of generalised itching and severe hair damage are also common. More often than not, these chemicals found in Holi colours also aggravate pre-existing skin conditions," said Dr Deepa Krishnamurthy, Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur.

Doctors also warn of temporary visual deficiency and eye infections if care is not taken. The synthetic colours are full of chemicals such as lead, mercury, copper sulphate, mica, and asbestos, which could lead to various eye-related issues ranging from foreign body sensations to permanent vision damage.

"If these colours enter your eyes and are not removed immediately, it can lead to an inflammatory response. Large particles can rub onto your cornea and cause abrasion. If not removed, they get stuck onto the upper eyelid and keep leaching into the eye, leading to prolonged damage. If the cornea is damaged, the healing process takes time as it does not have blood vessels," said Dr Poonam Yadav, Consultant, Ophthalmology, Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur.

Many working professionals in the city suffer from dry eye issues, also called computer vision syndrome. She further advised that those with these pre-existing conditions and those using contact lenses should be extra careful while playing with the synthetic colours. "Colours should not be used while wearing contact lenses," said Dr Yadav.

> **"Post-celebration, remove colours immediately and moisturise your skin to avoid any inflammation and rashes**
> – Dr Sachith Abraham, Consultant, Dermatology, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road

To avoid these health concerns, experts suggest celebrating the festival with organic colours and flowers instead of chemical-based synthetic powders. However, if unavoidable, it is important to minimise exposure. While protective gear can be used to safeguard the eyes, natural oils such as coconut oil can protect the skin.

"Avoid rubbing eyes while there is colour on the hands. Covering the skin with a long-sleeved top and trousers after applying a thin coat of petroleum jelly or any moisturiser would be effective. Water-resistant sunscreen provides better protection. Post-celebration, remove colours immediately and moisturise your skin to avoid any inflammation and rashes. Protective gear such as goggles can protect your eyes from harmful chemicals," said Dr Sachith Abraham.

Students employ tech to ensure no morsel goes to waste

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Students from IIIT-Bangalore have devised an innovative approach to tackle food waste on a large scale, particularly in expensive restaurant setups.

Under the guidance of Madhave Rao, associate professor and faculty-in-charge of labs, Pranav Bhutada, Kushal Partani, Yash Gupta, and Siddharth Chauhan, achieved this feat. Their IT solution incorporates gas sensors for real-time monitoring of food freshness, employing advanced machine learning algorithms to analyse the sensor data. With a threshold-based assessment mechanism, it accurately determines food edibility.

This solution not only enhances food management practices for both consumers and industries but also promotes proactive measures. The gas sensor technology efficiently detects freshness and impurities, enabling producers to optimise the handling and sale of perishable goods, all while ensuring consumer safety and satisfaction.

About their solution, Bhutada said, "Our product uses MQ-2 gas sensors, which are known for their cost-effectiveness as well as robust results. The MQ sensor's working principle involves detecting changes in electrical conductivity when specific gases come into contact with the sensor's sensing element. Other sensors used work on 'mems'(microelectromechanical systems) technology. These sensor readings are then passed through a regression model, which outputs a score from 0-100, indicating the degree of freshness of the underlying product. Regression is a supervised machine-learning technique that is used to predict continuous outcomes."

> **The IT solution incorporates gas sensors for real-time monitoring of food freshness**

This solution was developed while participating in a national-level hackathon, "HACK4TKM," where they secured third place. Bhutada added, "From the freshness score, producers owning large-scale storage facilities can monitor the health of their product in real-time, thus helping them in the effective transport and sale of food before it gets spoiled. We have made a mobile application as an interface for storage facility owners to access real-time data and results."

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Will three boogies cut it for B'luru Suburban Rail?

As Metro grapples with overcrowding, BSRP emerges with solutions to expand capacity, and better infrastructure plans

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When Metro trains were launched in Namma Bengaluru, there were only three bogies. However, Metro officials soon realised that three were not enough, so they extended them to six. Yet, commuters on busy routes like Majestic to Whitefield are realising that even six are inadequate. Nonetheless, the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), where works are progressing at a very slow pace, may initially have only three bogies.

Officials say that gradually they will increase the bogies depending on the increase in ridership. The three bogies can accommodate up to 300 commuters at a given time, with space for 75 per cent of commuters to sit. This means the seating capacity in suburban trains will be more compared to the Metro, as in the latter case, there was more space for commuters to stand. There are plans to provide provisions for reserving women's seats. The suburban stations will have platforms that can accommodate either six or nine bogies. There are also plans to introduce platform screen doors. Officials said that, like the Electronic City line, the suburban trains will feature a communication-based signalling system.

According to Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil, the first section of the BSRP covering a stretch of 7.4 KM from Chikkabanavara to Yeshwanthpur, will be commissioned by December 2025. Recently, officials inspected a 31-metre-long U-girder span that is being implemented for the first time in India for the BSRP. Officials claim that this bridge deck design concept will reduce construction time, enhance aesthetic appeal, improve durability, and prove to be cost-effective.

For the first time, these girders will be utilised to build a viaduct (elevated section) of approximately 8 km from Hebbal to Yeshwanthpur, a part of the 'Mallige' line or Corridor 2 of BSRP, requiring about 450 girders. The L&T yard at Gollahalli also casts I-Girders and Pier Caps, with 323 and 283 respectively to be used alo

Regarding the progress of BSRP work, the Minister mentioned that about 20 per cent of permanent work has been completed so far. Out of the total 120.44 acres of land required for C2 (Chikkabanavara to Benniganahalli), 119.18 acres have already been acquired (98.5 per cent of the land). Efforts are underway to address challenges such as encroachments and coordinate with multiple stakeholders for utilities and land acquisition along Corridor-2 (Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara). Discussions with various stakeholders such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), and private telephone agencies are ongoing for utilities shifting/diversions and land acquisition, he added. There are no hurdles for works along the C3 stretch (Kengeri to Whitefield) from Kengeri to Cantonment. However, land issues between Cantonment and Whitefield are a concern. Discussions with Railways will determine whether an elevated corridor or alternative solutions are ideal for this stretch.

Officials say that gradually they will increase the bogies depending on the increase in ridership. The three bogies can accommodate up to 300 commuters at a given time, with space for 75% of commuters to sit

The entire project, worth Rs 15,677 crore covering 148.17 km, is scheduled to be completed by December 2027. Minister Patil sought the Railway Ministry's support for the timely handing over of encroachment-free land as per DPR and timely design approvals for the project. He also urged the Railway to approve alignment and hand over lands for C1 (KSR Bengaluru to Devanahalli) and C3 (Kengeri to Whitefield) by June 2024 to meet set targets. Minister Patil also informed that K-RIDE is considering plans to connect BSRP with the Peripheral Railway Network, a project intended to be taken up by the Railway Department in the coming years. Further extension to satellite towns is also being discussed with Railways, he emphasised. K-RIDE MD Dr N Manjula was also present.

Lake renewal efforts thwarted by rampant encroachment

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The Maragondanahalli/Gollahalli Lake is one of the beautiful lakes located in Electronic City Phase-1. The lake land falls under Maragondanahalli Village survey number 17 and Gollahalli Village survey number 15. This lake was restored in 2022; however, it has now been encroached upon again. The locals living there are worried that the lake might be neglected once more and face complete encroachment.

This lake comes under Anekal taluk. Maragondanahalli village is governed by the panchayat, and Gollahalli village is governed by Hebbagodi Municipality. According to the locals, the lake was rejuvenated by lake activist Anand Malligavad in 2022. "Majority of encroachments were reclaimed, the lake was desilted, and plantation was done. It gave a new life to the lake and gave hope to the community. It used to hold 5 feet of water even in the summer season. But now things have changed due to unauthorised borewell water exploitation," they mentioned.

According to Venugopal Kompally, a software engineer, "The current issues threatening the lake are various anti-social elements. The larger impacting category is due to lake land encroachment in Gollahalli village survey, buffer zone violation, rampant construction, trees chopped in lake land to give way for construction, unauthorised commercial borewell draining the lake, and rajakaluvae destruction." "Recently, two trees in the lake land were chopped in the middle of the night to give way for construction. This is an absolute violation of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). These trees are inside lake land," said Kompally. There are huge rampant constructions in the buffer zone of the lake, despite the survey carried out two years ago. "Construction debris is all over the lake land, and even a fish stall constructed partly in the lake land," sighed the locals.

Additionally, it was pointed out that multiple commercial borewells have been dug in the private land adjacent to the lake. "There are close to 8 borewells within an area of 1 acre, and there is no resident house or active farming happening near it for the use of this water. It is used for supplying tankers and apartments. This has resulted in the lake getting dry," they added.

Importantly, "The lake is said to have 4 downstream rajakaluves. Now only one is operational, and all others are encroached, and one of them is used as a private road," they added.

"There is no fear of law. And the violations are done in broad daylight, and it is very obvious to the naked eye. Government authorities are turning a blind eye to all these violations and giving permission for construction without verifying ground realities," said Kompally.

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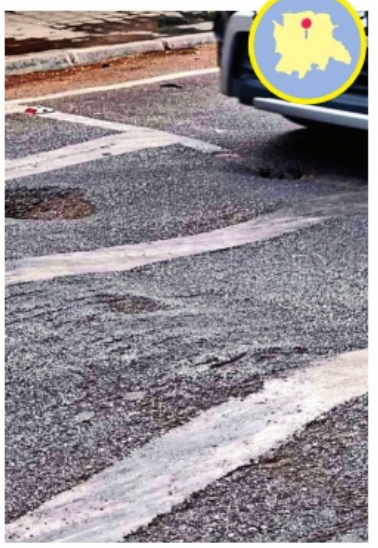
Malleswaram



The poor road condition of the Link Road.

No parking zone
St John's Road

Cars are parked on the main road which often causes traffic troubles.

Pick up the trash
Banashankari

This debris is lying in Banashankari second stage, 32nd Cross, Ganesh Mandir ward.

Penalty pushed into a corner

RERA yet to recover Rs 486 crore as penalty from builders; citizens worry authority is too lax

The Karnataka-Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) is yet to recover Rs 486 crore penalty from builders for violating its orders. It has been seven years since K-RERA came into force. With a slow recovery of penalties, complaints are left in the limbo.

So far, in the last seven years, K-RERA has imposed a penalty in 1,248 cases and the penalty amount added up to Rs 547.31 crore. Till now, penalty has been collected in 138 cases and the total penalty collected is Rs 60.64 crore. It is yet to recover Rs 486.68 crore from 1,110 pending cases.

A citizen said, "As the prices of flats are quite high, most of us have borrowed loans by paying huge interest. While buying, the builders promise us the moon saying that they will provide all the amenities and deliver the houses in the given time but most of us defy deadlines and we have no other choice.

Despite pleading with the builders there is no response and this is when we have approached K-REARA. However, it is sad to note that despite orders from K-RERA, there has been no response."

Many flat buyers say that the K-RERA had passed the orders years ago and yet nothing much has happened. Many of the builders have failed to return the money for complainants.

Meanwhile, officials said that in most of the cases, the builders have approached various courts and have got stay orders. For example, a prominent builder has to repay Rs 90 crore to the customers and challenging the K-RERA order, the builder has approached court and the cases are still going on.

The Real Estate Regulation and Development (RERA) Act, 2016 is considered as one of the landmark legislations passed by the Government of India. Its objective is to reform the real estate sector in India, encouraging greater transparency, citizen centricity, accountability, and financial discipline. This is in line with the vast and growing economy of India as in future many people will be investing in the real estate sector.

Another citizen said that the establishment of K-RERA had brought them immense joy, given the countless individuals who have fallen victim to unscrupulous builders. "Many have invested significant sums in pursuit of their dream homes, only to be left empty-handed.

If the recovery of funds is prolonged unnecessarily, it shatters the hopes of citizens," they said. **BMB**

Looking for consultant to help K'taka in energy transition

The Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has sought the help of a consultant to support it in various renewable energy and energy transition programs, and several emerging fields.

The nodal agency aims to create conditions conducive to private/ public/community participation and investment in such projects.

Currently, Karnataka stands 5th in renewable energy capacity with 16.52GW installed. Rajasthan takes the lead in the country followed by Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. In terms of wind and solar energy, Karnataka stands third in the country with 5.312 GW and 8.424 GW installed capacity.

The hired agency would build an energy mix strategy for Karnataka by assessing the energy scenario of Karnataka and suggesting an optimal energy generation mix of renewable and new energy for up to 2035. The agency would also interact with other parastatal agencies for the identification of new areas of renewable energy and identify strategies for renewable energy procurement for the short, medium, and long term.

The government also plans to look at pumped hydro storage and assess the energy scenario of Karnataka to indicate the Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) capacity requirement for the grid (among other commercial energy storage technologies) and develop a road map for the government to advance PSP investments in the state.

The consultancy firm would also be required to identify emission intensity sectors in the state (private and public), assess the emission intensity of state GDP and review the emission trajectory for the state of Karnataka till 2050.

Additionally, the agency would help Karnataka in being represented in global forums. **– Melvin Mathew**

Treasure hunt turns fatal

Three persons who were found burnt in a car in Tumakuru district hailed from Belthangadi Taluk of Mangaluru and they might have been duped on the pretext of 'treasure', police said on Saturday. Police sources said the accused lured the trio so that they wanted to dispose of the gold ornaments found during a treasure hunt at a throwaway price. The victims relied on them and reached the place with money. Later, the culprits murdered them, looted their money. PTI

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THE SUNDAY READ

On the vulture's trail

First-of-its-kind study reveals diet of threatened species varies across different landscapes

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A new study, a first of its kind in the Indian subcontinent, has revealed how the diet composition of threatened vulture species varies across different landscapes. Using a novel metabarcoding technique, a team of scientists from National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR), Bombay Natural History Society, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Karnataka Vulture Conservation Trust, and Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology, have been able to examine fecal samples from vultures, to identify the DNA of diet species whose carcasses the vultures likely consumed. Published in the journal Biological Conservation, the findings from this study bear significant implications for conservation of vultures in India.

The study focuses on vulture species within the genus Gyps, commonly referred to as old world vultures found in India- the resident White-rumped vulture (G. bengalensis) and Indian vulture (G. indicus), and migratory Eurasian griffon (G. fulvus) and Himalayan griffon (G. himalayensis).

Diclofenac effect

The populations of these vultures experienced a severe decline during the 1990s and early 2000s due to the use of diclofenac in treating livestock. Diclofenac-contaminated carcasses, when scavenged by the vultures, led to widespread mortality. Particularly, populations of the three resident Gyps species (G. bengalensis, G. indicus, G. tenuirostris) witnessed a staggering decline of lower than 95%, making them critically endangered and prompting the prohibition of veterinary diclofenac in India and neighboring countries by 2006. Two decades later, the numbers of all three species remain low and relatively stable, with no signs of recovery. However, despite the ban on diclofenac, its illegal use in treating livestock persists and remains unregulated in many pockets of the country.

During this study, scientists gathered fresh faecal samples from all Gyps vulture species at numerous nesting and roosting sites, selected based on vulture sightings reported by the citizen science platform eBird, spanning the years 2018 to 2022. These sites were located across the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh. DNA was extracted from these samples and metabarcoding analyses were conducted at the NCBS-TIFR next generation sequencing facility.

These approaches allowed scientists to identify the species consumed by the vultures. "Metabarcoding allowed us to generate data on vulture diets from a large number of faecal samples very efficiently and reliably. We could use samples collected without disturbing the birds. The pipeline (designed by us) allowed us to simultaneously identify the vulture species, its sex and dietary species," explained Dr. Mosumi Ghosh-Harihar (NCBS-inStem-Cambridge fellow, NCBS-TIFR),the lead author of the paper.

Diet pattern

Large ungulates were found to be the main dietary component for all four vulture species across all landscapes. However, diet composition, particularly the relative intake of domestic and wild ungulates differed across landscapes, vulture species and depending on whether the sample was collected inside or outside PA.

In South India, vulture species primarily scavenged on wild ungulate remains, potentially due to lower livestock carcass availability compared to regions in the north, suggest the scientists. Additionally, the South Indian states have a cultural tradition of cattle and buffalo meat consumption, which could be contributing to the diminished availability of domestic ungulate carrion for vultures.

The results of this study highlight the significant dependence of vultures on domestic ungulate carrion as a crucial aspect of their diet. Based on these results, scientists urge that continuing the efforts to eliminate harmful veterinary drugs for vultures remains critical to save them from disappearing. Says Prof. Uma Ramakrishnan, Senior author, NCBS, "Gyps vultures were historically very abundant, but the use of veterinary diclofenac affected them adversely, and caused catastrophic declines. Our results emphasize the need for a continued ban on veterinary diclofenac use, as well as other NSAIDs. We hope these biological insights can contribute to on-ground population management for their conservation and recovery."

The conservation actions include testing drugs for their impact on vultures, advocating for legal bans and ensuring enforcement and education for compliance.

> **"We could use samples collected without disturbing the birds. The pipeline (designed by us) allowed us to simultaneously identify the vulture species**
>
> –Mosumi Ghosh-Harihar, lead author of study

Was trolled for changing seating position: CJI

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Saturday recalled a recent incident of him facing 'trolling' and 'vicious abuse' for adjusting his seating position, during a hearing due to a discomfort and highlighted the need for judicial officers to manage stress and ensure work-life balance.

He was speaking after inaugurating the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers titled, "Equity and Excellence for Futuristic Judiciary", organised by the Karnataka State Judicial Officer's Association.

Speaking on work-life balance and stress management, which was one of the topics of the two-day conference, he said the capacity to manage stress is significant in the life of a judge, especially for district judges.

As judicial officers they regularly engage with vulnerable litigants. Many of the people who come to the courts are stressed about the injustice caused to them, he said.

"Sometimes in their dealings with us as judges, they cross the line. As Chief Justice of India, I see so many lawyers and litigants crossing the line when they speak to us in the court. The answer when these litigants cross the line is not to use the power of contempt (of court), but to understand why they have crossed the line," Justice Chandrachud said.

He said there must be some deep rooted injustice which the lawyers and their clients were confronting, which is why they sometimes utter things which they otherwise would not say.

"In these context, the responsibility you carry is immense, necessitating a calm and compassionate approach. Maintaining a work-life balance is integral to fulfilling these duties effectively," he advised the judicial officers.

A judge who was overwhelmed with work and unable to prioritise personal time with family and self care may struggle to perform optimally, Justice Chandrachud said.

"The ability to manage stress and achieve work life balance is not separate from but rather intertwined with delivering justice completely. We often tell physicians and surgeons, 'heal thyself'. Before you heal others, you must learn how to heal yourself. The same is true about judges as well," he underlined.

The CJI shared his personal experience which occurred recently.

He said he was also trolled recently based on the live-streaming of an important hearing. "Just four or five days ago when I was hearing a case, I had a little pain in back, so all that I did was I placed my elbows in my armchair in the court and I just shifted my position in the chair," Justice Chandrachud said. He said there were several comments on the social media which alleged that the Chief Justice of India is "so arrogant" that he got up in the midst an important argument in court. "What they didn't tell you was that all he did was only to shift his position in the chair. 24 years of judging can be a little strenuous which I have put in. I didn't leave the court. I only shifted my position but I was subject to vicious abuse, trolling, the knives were out but I do believe that our shoulders are broad enough and the ultimate confidence which we have is of common citizens in the work which we do," he noted.

The CJI hailed the judiciary in Karnataka for the speedy disposal of cases. He praised the state government for its support to provide infrastructure for the district judiciary. "I was amazed when I learnt the statistics. Between January 1, 2023 and March 23, 2024, 21.25 lakh cases were instituted in the district judiciary in Karnataka. As many as 20.62 lakh cases have been disposed of... This is really a performance to replicate," the CJI said. **–PTI**

Conflict over Lokayukta's newest appointee

Apprehensions mount over chief engineer appointment amidst ongoing dereliction of duty probe

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The Karnataka Lokayukta's objective is to redress public grievances and investigate allegations against public servants, recommending disciplinary action for those found guilty. If a chief engineer facing an inquiry for dereliction of duty by the Karnataka Lokayukta is appointed as the Chief Engineer of the ombudsman institution, it raises concerns of a conflict of interest. Such a posting could potentially undermine the credibility of the Lokayukta.

The posting of TD Nanjundappa as the Chief Engineer of Lokayukta was done by the Under Secretary of the Public Works Department, claiming that the order was issued in public and administrative interest. The order was issued on March 15.

Residents of Bandemath KHB Layout were shocked to learn about Nanjundappa's appointment as the Chief Engineer of Karnataka Lokayukta because they were the ones who lodged a complaint with Karnataka Lokayukta against him for dereliction of duty when he was the Chief Engineer of Karnataka Housing Board. The Bandemath KHB Layout was developed by the Karnataka Housing Board. Members of Bandemath KHB Layout Residents Welfare Association lodged a complaint with Karnataka Lokayukta in 2021 seeking a probe into substandard developmental works at the layout.

> **"Nanjundappa has misled Lokayukta regarding the exact date of handing over the layout to the BBMP by the KHB**
>
> – B Ramakrishne Gowda, President, Bandemath KHB Layout, Residents' Welfare Association

Based on the complaint, Karnataka Lokayukta assigned Nagarathna, assistant executive engineer, to conduct an inquiry into the allegations pertaining to dereliction of duty. Nagarathna visited the layout and inspected the developmental works undertaken during Nanjundappa's tenure, finding them to be substandard. She also noted that Nanjundappa did not take measures to recover the layout land that was encroached upon by a private builder. It was stated that Nanjundappa failed to restore a road that was damaged within a month of asphalting. The inquiry found irregularities in the measurement of some roads and stated that Nanjundappa was responsible for clearing bills to the contractor without taking corrective measures.

Members of the Bandemath KHB Layout Residents Welfare Association submitted a letter to the Karnataka Lokayukta on March 19, 2024, explaining how Nanjundappa's appointment as the Chief Engineer of Lokayukta would create a conflict of interest. As of now, Nagarathna, assistant executive engineer of Lokayukta, has retired.

"Nanjundappa has misled Lokayukta regarding the exact date of handing over the layout to the BBMP by the KHB. He informed the inquiry officer that the layout was handed over to the BBMP on August 3, 2022, but the layout was handed over to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) only on February 27, 2023. I appeal to Justice Lokayukta to cancel Nanjundappa's appointment as the Chief Engineer of Lokayukta as it will lead to a conflict of interest," said Bandemath KHB Layout Residents Welfare Association President B Ramakrishne Gowda.

Three junction improvements planned for Hebbal: DULT

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Hebbal Main Road

The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) has proposed junction improvements in Hebbal to enhance traffic flow and pedestrian safety. Specifically, improvements are planned for three junctions: TV Tower junction, Sanjay Nagar Main Road-Bellary Road junction, and K2 junction. These junctions have been identified as chokeholds, with inadequate pedestrian safety measures in place. DULT, in collaboration with BBMP, has analysed and studied these junctions in Hebbal. The interventions aimed at improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety will be implemented to alleviate congestion at these locations.

The TV Tower junction is a 3-arm un-signalised intersection. The junction caters to traffic moving in and out of the RT Nagar neighbourhood. Traffic moving to the North heads towards RT Nagar while movement through the South caters to traffic moving to Sultanpalya and JC Nagar. The memorial of the Mysore Lancers Haifa, along with a softscape island, acts as a traffic channelizer at this junction. While the junction caters to city bus movement, the land use around the junction is for military purposes, and there are movements of military trucks through the junction. Despite experiencing low traffic, DULT officials noted unauthorised parking and unscientific channelizers causing issues. As per the suggested changes to the junction, DULT has proposed shifting the memorial tower inside the roundabout to eliminate bottlenecks. Additionally, the roundabout will be revised to provide uniform carriage width and a walking path inside. The bus shelters will be redesigned to ensure dedicated space for buses. The Southern and Northern side bus shelters will be shifted to create space for private vehicles, pedestrians, and commuters.

Similarly, the Sanjay Nagar Main Road - Bellary Road junction forms a T junction at the foot of the flyover ramp on Bellary Road. There are two crossings under the flyover located 35 m and 50 m from the junction towards Hebbal, which are 3.2 m wide and 7.1 m wide respectively.

At this junction, DULT has proposed closing the underpass for vehicle passage. The movement of traffic within the stretch will be rationalised, and the 3m wide underpass will be converted to a pedestrian underpass protected by bollards. A pedestrian crossing has been proposed for pedestrians to cross the service road of Bellary Road from the underpass on the left-hand side and a pedestrian crossing across the Sanjay Nagar Main Road near the mouth of the junction providing safe crossing for the pedestrians.

Another junction taken for improvement is the Hebbal K 2 junction located below the Hebbal Flyover adjacent to the Indian Railway (IR) station at Hebbal. The junction is known as the K2 Bus Stand, and the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus K2 terminates at the junction. At this junction, DULT officials have found several issues such as a lack of bus bays, unorganised vending, and unnamed two-wheeler parking. To resolve these issues, DULT has proposed two bus bays with a passenger waiting area and seating facility. The junction will have two bus bays of 7.5m wide each with designated parking space for the BMTC bus and will help the passengers safely board the bus. Additionally, a U-turn has been provided for the vehicles from the service road towards Mekhri Circle to prevent traffic turning to Mekhri Circle from entering core junctions. DULT will also make designated spaces for parking and vending. Demarcated pedestrian crossing facilities will be provided at all arms of the junction and to access the bus terminal.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

URBAN SYLPH

Captivating presence of a peacock near the NCERT Campus in Banashankari.

The picture was clicked by reader **Amrutha Balakrishna**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Vultures hover, citizens lament, trash triumphs

Residents suffer from air and water pollution while authorities cite jurisdictional issues for not taking timely action

The Residents of Mitganahalli, a village just 10 minutes away from Bhartiya City, are facing a severe environmental crisis due to illegal dumping and burning of garbage near their homes. The dumping yard, located opposite the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plant, was set ablaze 15 days ago, causing continuous smoke engulfment in the area for 3-4 days, making it unbearable to breathe and causing irritation to the eyes of residents.

A resident said, "The illegal dumping not only exacerbates air pollution but also contributes to water contamination, forcing villagers to rely on water tankers as borewell water becomes unusable. Despite protests from villagers and road blockades, the authorities have failed to take effective action. Initially, the Gram Panchayat filed a police complaint against BBMP, resulting in the cessation of burning and levelling of the dump yard. However, within a week, illegal dumping resumed in another area closer to residential properties, with trucks lining up to dispose of garbage throughout the day."

Another resident said that the situation has become dire, with vultures attracted to the area, posing further health risks to residents. "Both the BBMP and the Gram Panchayat have been approached by residents, but both have cited jurisdictional issues and bureaucratic delays. The Gram Panchayat, despite acknowledging the problem, stated that it may take several months for higher authorities to intervene, leaving residents in distress. The rampant corruption and negligence of authorities are not only endangering the present well-being of residents but also jeopardising the future development of the area. Despite recent infrastructure improvements such as the construction of a pucca road, residents are deprived of the necessities of clean air and water," the resident said, demanding urgent need for coordinated action from government authorities to address illegal dumping and ensure the health and safety of communities.

A resident of Mitganahalli said that the situation has become dire, with vultures attracted to the area, posing further health risks

Neglected garbage attracting vultures in Mitganahalli

— Pavithra Choudhary

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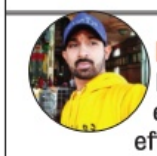
TAPTHECHATTER

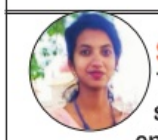
where Bengalureans speak their mind

Why do many prefer bikes in the city over cars and is it safe?



Ramu, BM Reader
Bikes are known for their fuel efficiency, making them a cost-effective choice for commuting. In cities where traffic congestion is a common issue, bikes offer a practical solution as they can easily navigate through traffic.

Subhash, BM Reader
In terms of safety, biking can be safe when riders follow traffic regulations, wear protective gear, and stay alert on the road. However, it's essential to know that biking in busy city environments requires careful manoeuvring.



Sushma, BM Reader
The preference for bikes in city settings is often attributed to their environmental benefits, such as producing fewer emissions and contributing to improved air quality. Biking promotes physical activity, and reduced stress levels.

Kiran, BM Reader
Riders must prioritise safety protocols like wearing helmets, using lights at night, and following traffic regulations. With proper infrastructure support, biking can be a safe and sustainable mode of transportation.

Chandrashekhar, BM Reader
The preference for bikes is often due to their agility and responsiveness in navigating through traffic, which can enhance safety in certain situations. Biking promotes an active lifestyle and community engagement.

Keerthesh, BM Reader
The preference for bikes in cities is often due to their noise reduction, making urban environments quieter and more pleasant. Bikes are generally easier and cheaper to maintain than cars, making them a practical choice for many.

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Operation Kamala: BJP dismisses claims

Haven't made approaches to rival camp, says Leader of Opposition

Dismissing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's claim that the BJP was offering Rs 50 crore each to ruling Congress MLAs to switch sides ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka on Saturday said his party has made no such approaches to the rival camp.

Speaking to ANI on Saturday, the LoP said, "The Congress are staring at defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, which is why he (Siddaramaiah) is trying to deflect public attention by making such unfounded claims. He has dreamed up this 'Operation Kamala' to hoodwink the people. We don't have any intention to destablise this government. In fact, they are driving their own government to the point of ruin. We have not made any offer to any Congress MLA. There are no such operations from our end."

Meanwhile, the BJP's state chief BY Vijayendra on Saturday inaugurated and opened a dedicated media centre of the party as a part of the Lok Sabha election preparation.

"'Once again Modi' are not only the words of BJP workers. People of India want Modi as PM. His popularity is rising by the day. People across the length and breadth of the country believe in Modi. His vision is the development of India. Karnataka is South India's gateway to the BJP," Vijayendra said.

"The Congress are staring at defeat in the LS elections, which is why he (Siddaramaiah) is trying to deflect public attention by making such unfounded claims. He has dreamed up this 'Operation Kamala' to hoodwink the people

The BJP chief said Congress does not have candidates in Karnataka for the Lok Sabha election as JD(S) is also with his party.

Addressing party members in Karnataka's Hubballi on Friday, Basavaraj Bommai urged the party members to work towards achieving at least one hundred more votes from each village than in the previous Assembly election.

"There was a lot of difference between the Assembly and the Lok Sabha polls. You must work for the candidate. My prestige will increase if Joshi gets the lead here. He should win the election by a margin of five lakh votes," he said. **ANI**

Paramilitary force along with Mysuru city police held a route march ahead of the upcoming LS polls, on Saturday

Cong forms 3-member campaign committee

The Congress high command on Saturday appointed five working presidents to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and constituted a three-member campaign committee ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

According to a press release, Tanveer Sait (Mysuru MLA), G C Chandrashekhar (MP), Vinay Kulkarni (Dharwad MLA), Manjunath Bhandary (MLC) and Vasanth Kumar have been appointed as the working presidents of the KPCC.

The campaign committee comprises chairman Vinay Kumar Sorake (former minister), co-chairman Dr L Hanumanthaiah (MP) and vice chairman Rizwan Arshad (Shivajinagar MLA). **PTI**

'Opaque' electoral bond scheme ensured bribes could be routed through banking channel: Cong

Stepping up its attack on the BJP-led government over the electoral bonds issue, the Congress on Saturday said the "opaque scheme" ensured that prepaid, postpaid and even post-raid bribes could be routed through the banking channel.

The opposition party also reiterated its demand that there should be a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry into the issue.

At a press conference, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that this is the prime minister who gave a guarantee of 'bringing back black money' and instead "legalized corruption and is then desperately trying to hide it".

The opposition party also released a "python code" due to which, it claimed, it took less than 15 seconds to match the donors with political parties, "exposing the brazen and ridiculous claim of the SBI that it would take months to provide the data asked by the Supreme Court".

The Congress has highlighted four patterns of "blatant corruption" in the electoral bonds scam -? "Chanda Do, Dhanda Lo i.e. Prepaid Bribe; 'Theka Lo, Rishvat Do i.e. Postpaid Bribe; Hafta Vasooli i.e. Extortion/Post-raid Bribe; Farzi Company i.e. Shell Companies", he said.

Ramesh alleged that the analysis using the code has brought to light that 38 corporate groups which have got 179 major contracts and projects approvals from the central or BJP state governments have donated electoral bonds.

These companies have got a total worth of Rs 3.8 lakh crore in projects and contracts, in exchange for Rs 2,004 crore in electoral bonds donations to the BJP, Ramesh claimed.

He asserted that "when the INDIA bloc comes to power it would get the electoral bond scam investigated by an SIT".

He also said a JPC would be formed over the Adani matter and an SIT would also look into the PM-CARES Fund, if the INDIA bloc is voted to power.

Ramesh alleged 41 corporate groups have faced a total of 56 ED/CBI/IT raids and have given Rs 2,592 crore to the BJP, of which Rs 1,853 crore was given after raids, he claimed. **PTI**

JD(S) to get 3 seats including Mandya, says BJP leader

BJP national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal on Saturday said the party's ally JD(S) will contest the Lok Sabha elections from Mandya, Hassan and Kolar.

He also said the BJP and JD(S) workers will cooperate and work for each other's victory.

"We are not fighting alone...We are fighting it with JD(S). We have given Mandya, Hassan and Kolar seats to the JD(S). When we have given these seats to the JD(S), we too are at loss. You will see us (BJP and JD(S)) fighting this battle shoulder to shoulder," Agarwal said at a party event here.

The BJP has released the list of candidates for 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha constituencies in Karnataka. It is yet to release the list of other seats it would be contesting.

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka said the ball is now in the BJP central parliamentary board's court and its decision will be final with regard to Mandya. Mandya constituency was the bone of contention between the two parties and the announcement over the list of seats was delayed due to the alleged adamant stance of the sitting MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, an independent.

Sumalatha, multilingual film actress and wife of eminent Kannada actor-turned-politician late Ambareesh, contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election as an independent candidate and defeated Nikhil Kumaraswamy, grandson of former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda and son of former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy.

Sumalatha is yet to reveal her plans. However, she has been insisting on contesting from Mandya, which she terms as her base.

Sources in the JD(S) said the party had decided to field HD Kumaraswamy from Mandya. The party was also insistent about fielding a candidate from the constituency as it has a strong base in the district given the fact that there is a substantial Vokkaliga population, which the JD(S)' first family belongs to.

The JD(S) had won all seven seats in Mandya district in the 2018 Assembly elections. However, it lost ground in 2023 Assembly polls when it won only one seat while the Congress emerged victorious in six segments. **PTI**

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Drought relief: Karnataka government files writ petition in SC against Centre

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that the state government has filed a writ petition against the Union government for not releasing drought relief to the southern state.

The writ petition has been filed in the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution. The apex court has given its endorsement after accepting the petition, CM Siddaramaiah stated.

"We are forced to wage a legal battle after waiting for five months. The plea has been submitted requesting the apex court to issue directions for the Central government to immediately release the compensation under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF)," he demanded.

"We can't wait. Farmer's can't wait and they are demanding subsidy. The government has to release Rs 4,600 crore input subsidy. We have sought a Rs 18,171 crore compensation package under the NDRF. We have pleaded with them," he stated.

The Centre has violated the norms. It should have released the money within one month. "We have prayed before the Supreme Court to give direction for the government of India in this regard," he added.

"We do not want legal conflict. Our farmers are under stress. We are forced to fight through filing the writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. As per the law, the compensation needs to be given. Our state pays Rs 4.30 lakh crores of taxes to the Union government. We are asking from our tax money. We are not begging," he said. "The Constitution is binding on the Central government, states and Union territories. In December 2023, we had met PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. They had promised that they will hold a meeting on December 23, 2023 and promised to release funds. They have not released it," he claimed. – IANS

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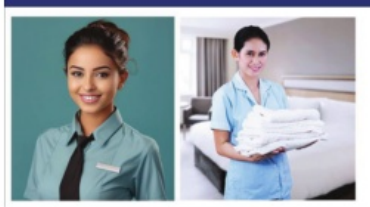

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IPL 2024: Faf du Plessis blames top-order batting collapse after loss against CSK

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) skipper Faf du Plessis blamed top-order batting fault after a tough defeat in their opening match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 against the seasoned Chennai Super Kings. The match, held on Friday saw RCB faltering after a promising start, eventually succumbing to a 6-wicket loss against Ruturaj Gaikwad's determined CSK side.

The toss favoured RCB, who opted to bat first, hoping to set a formidable target. However, their aspirations were dampened early on as Mustafizur Rahman's double strike in the fifth over of the powerplay shattered their top order. Despite the setback, RCB managed to stitch together a modest total of 173 runs, largely due to a resilient 95-run partnership between Anuj Rawat and Dinesh Karthik.

Faf du Plessis, the captain of RCB, lamented the loss of wickets in the crucial initial overs, acknowledging that it put them on the backfoot for the rest of the game. He highlighted the importance of consolidating the innings after the early blows, emphasizing that RCB fell short by about 15 to 20 runs on the challenging Chennai pitch.

"When you play here, you feel like you have to almost get ahead of the game a little bit in the first six hours overs because Chennai is a very good team there in the middle.

They have done it for so many years where they squeeze you with spinners. So unfortunately, we lost a little bit too many wickets in the first seven overs, which meant that the guys needed to bat a little bit and stable the innings again. I felt like we were 15 or 20 runs short on the pitch," Faf du Plessis said after the match.

Even with Cameron Green and Virat Kohli contributing decently, their dismissals inside the 12th over intensified RCB's struggle. However, Rawat and Karthik's commendable partnership injected hope into the team, albeit momentarily. Faf conceded that despite their efforts, the total was never going to be enough against a formidable opponent like CSK. **IANS**

Rachin impresses Kumble with debut performance

The defending champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) kicked off their IPL 2024 campaign with a spectacular victory over the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at the iconic Chepauk Stadium in Chennai.

The remarkable performance of New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra gathered huge appreciation from the cricket fraternity after his quick-fire 37 and brilliant performance in the field in the opening match of IPL 2024 marking hi debut.

Rachin was roped in by CSK at the IPL 2024 mini-auction following a terrific display at the 2023 ODI World Cup held in India.

Former Indian captain Anil Kumble was effusive in his praise for Rachin's stellar showing in the opening match.

Kumble marveled at how CSK managed to secure Rachin's services for a mere Rs 1.80 crore at the IPL 2024 mini-auction, considering his exceptional display at the 2023 ODI World Cup.

Speaking to JioCinema post-match, Kumble lauded Rachin's versatility, highlighting his prowess with both bat and ball, as well as his exceptional fielding skills.

"He performed very well in the World Cup, not just with the bat and ball but in the field as well. So I was surprised that he went for a very low price to CSK. Generally, you have the New Zealand players available for the IPL. He's had a fantastic debut," said Kumble.

Rachin's impact was profound and immediate as he seamlessly slotted into CSK's lineup, showcasing his ability to play both pace and spin with equal aplomb. **IANS**

Civic body to rein in harassment of stray animals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

organise awareness drives in their societies. These sessions will be free for citizens," added the official.

Animal feeders continue to face harassment

Despite court orders and animal birth control rules in place, stray animals and their caregivers in the city continue to face harassment at the hands of RWAs and neighbours.

In a recent case, a stray dog caregiver from JP Nagar alleged that not only she was harassed beyond acceptable limits but disgruntled neighbours used bleaching powder to endanger the life of an animal.

"I feed a semi-blind and deaf dog in my area that prefers to stay in a drain. Since she would not come out I would feed her in the drain without littering the place. This bothered the house adjoining the drain. Less than a week ago, I noticed that bleaching powder was peppered around the drain and when I enquired, I was screamed at with four-letter words. I ensure I leave no food or paper trail. Now if a tenured person like me faces the wrath of unreasonable people, I can imagine what it would be like for young caregivers," said Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

In another case, feeders and caregivers of Sobha City on Thanisandra Main Road alleged that the RWA is actively considering options to either relocate the community dogs or have them privately adopted. Some residents alleged that the association has not only tried to confine strays till they are relocated/adopted but has taken steps that have adversely affected the residents, particularly those who supported the cause of community dogs.

"Residents who actively participated in the meeting and voiced support for community dogs are facing harassment. Disturbingly, there are reports of tenants being threatened, with pressure being applied on landlords to terminate rental agreements. The main pet park has been closed, denying pets a vital area for exercise and socialisation.

Moreover, pet dogs are prohibited from walking in common areas within Sobha City even when properly leashed. With the closure of the main pet park, residents who are using alternative spaces are being harassed daily with threat of fines," said a resident. However, when BM reached out to Sobha City's estate manager, they denied any such steps being taken.

According to a senior official from BBMP's animal husbandry department, a meeting regarding these issues was recently organised with the RWA of Sobha City.

"In that meeting, we made it clear that the community dogs cannot be relocated from their space and any adoption of strays will be illegal. We are keeping an eye on the strays and will ensure their welfare," said the official.

Specialised equipment to monitor industrial emissions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

equipment and demonstration of the functioning of equipment at the respective office and at the identified site in the field, delivery of equipment, providing consumable spares for ten years, providing required training to the identified staff, officers as desired free of cost, calibration of equipment once a year and so on.

According to the KSPCB, there are 17 categories of industries in Karnataka; it has categorised industrial sectors into four categories based on the pollution index as per directions issued by the Central Pollution Control Board. They are: Red: Industrial sectors that have pollution index score of 60 and above, Orange: Industrial sectors with pollution index

score of 41 to 59, Green: Industrial sectors with pollution index score of 21 to 40, and White: Industrial sectors with pollution index score up to 20.

According to the CPCB, the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) score assessment can be used as a warning tool by state governments to understand the severity of the pollution and take action. The state government and state pollution control board can formulate action plans within three months for severely polluted and critically polluted areas. The action plan involves setting up continuous air quality monitoring stations, water quality monitoring stations, and so forth.

The district and state-level monitoring committees are required to oversee the implementation of the action plan and ensure there is no delay. In case of delay, the state government can take action against the concerned authorities. It is mandatory to publish the CEPI scores, progress reports of committee meetings and environmental quality data in the public domain.

HEALTH TIP: Lemon water with honey balances the pH level of the body and reduces acidity

Pineapple has anti-inflammatory properties, naturally aiding digestion and preventing acid reflux

BangaloreMirror | 13
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Sweet & satiating

One sweet and one refreshing drink for Ramzan

MALPUA TOWER WITH GAJAR KA HALWA AND NUTS

INGREDIENTS

For Malpua:
- 1 cup all-purpose flour (Maida)
- 1/4 cup semolina (Sooji)
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom powder
- Ghee or oil for frying

For Gajar ka Halwa:
- 2 cups grated carrots (Gajar)
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar (adjust to taste)
- 2 tablespoons ghee (clarified butter)
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts (almonds, cashews, pistachios)
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom powder

For Assembling:
- Saffron strands (for garnish, optional)
- Chopped nuts for garnish (almonds, pistachios, cashews)

METHOD

Prepare the Malpua Batter:
- In a mixing bowl, combine all-purpose flour, semolina, sugar, cardamom powder, and milk. Mix until
- smooth, ensuring a pancake-like batter consistency. Add more milk if needed.
- Let the batter rest for about 15-20 minutes.

Prepare the Gajar ka Halwa:
- Heat ghee in a pan and sauté the grated carrots until softened.
- Add milk and cook until carrots are fully cooked and milk is absorbed.
- Stir in sugar and cardamom powder, continuing to cook until the mixture thickens.
- Add chopped nuts and cook for another minute. Set aside to cool.

Fry the Malpua:
- Heat ghee or oil in a shallow pan over medium heat.
- Pour a small ladleful of batter into the pan to form a small pancake-like disc.
- Fry until golden brown on both sides.
- Remove from the pan and drain excess oil on paper towels. Repeat with remaining batter.

Assemble the Tower:
- Place one Malpua at the bottom of a serving plate or platter.
- Spread a layer of Gajar ka Halwa over the Malpua.
- Repeat layers of Malpua and Gajar ka Halwa until a tower is formed.
- Garnish the top with saffron strands and chopped nuts.

Serve:
- Serve the Malpua Tower with Gajar ka Halwa and Nuts as a dessert for special occasions or festive gatherings.

Serve warm or at room temperature according to preference. Enjoy this indulgent and flavorful dessert with family and friends!

Senthil Kumar, Associate Director of Food & Beverage, Clarks Exotica

FLORA DORA MOCKTAIL

INGREDIENTS
- 30ml Litchi and Rose Shrub
60ml Apple Juice
- 3 drops Vegan Foamer
- Ice cubes
- Dried Rose Petals (for garnish)

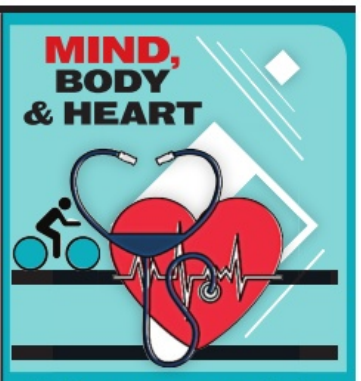
Glassware:
- Nick & Nora Glass

Equipment:
- Cocktail Shaker
- Strainer

METHOD

Shaken Procedure:
- **Chill the Glass:** Start by chilling your Nick & Nora glass to ensure your mocktail remains cool. You can do this by placing the glass in the freezer for a few minutes or filling it with ice water while you prepare the mocktail.
- **Mix Ingredients:** In a cocktail shaker, combine 30ml of litchi and rose shrub with 60ml of apple juice.
- **Add Vegan Foamer:** Add 3 drops of vegan foamer to the mixture. Vegan foamer is used as a substitute for egg whites in traditional drinks to create a silky texture and frothy top.
- **Shake:** Fill the shaker with ice, seal it tightly, and shake vigorously for about 15-20 seconds. Shaking not only chills the drink but also integrates the vegan foamer thoroughly, creating a smooth texture.
- **Strain:** Strain the mocktail into chilled Nick & Nora glass using a strainer to ensure a smooth pour without any ice.
- **Garnish:** Sprinkle dried rose petals over the top of the mocktail for a fragrant and visually appealing finish.
- **Serve:** Serve immediately and enjoy the delicate balance of litchi, rose, and apple flavors, enhanced by the elegant presentation in a Nick & Nora glass.

By Ashish Tamta, Mixologist, UNO Izakaya, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru



All you need to know about...

Throat soothers

Turmeric Milk
Turmeric is among the oldest remedies used to soothe a sore throat. It works wonders for throat pain and the common cold.
How to make it: Boil a glass of milk with a quarter teaspoon of turmeric in it. Have warm, swallowing gently so that the throat is soothed with the temperature as well as the ingredients. Good accompaniments can be ginger or honey.
Tip: Have this milk once a day if your pain is mild.

Ginger Tea
A natural and effective method to ease throat pain is this tea. It is an easy method as the ingredients are readily available.
How to make it: You can prepare it the same way you prepare your regular tea. The only addition is fresh ginger, a simple grate and adds in some when you boil your tea. Control the quantity of ginger depending on your tolerance to spice. It's important to sip it hot for better results.
Tip: You can also add crushed pepper.

Tulsi Kadha
It's a plant that has been proven to have many benefits. It can act as a home remedy to many other health benefits as well such as cough, congestion, etc.
How to make it: To prepare tulsi kadha, boil a glass of water with fresh tulsi leaves, pepper, salt and ginger. Let it boil for a while and then strain it. Drink it warm.
Tip: Let the water boil till it is reduced to half.

Lemon water
Lemon water can provide a surge in energy as well. It helps in boosting immunity and provides a great amount of vitamin C.
How to make it: To prepare lemon water, squeeze a lemon in hot (or boiling water), and add sugar if you prefer. Drink it hot.
Tip: Do not use sugar if you have high sugar problems.

-Femina

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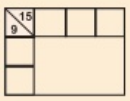
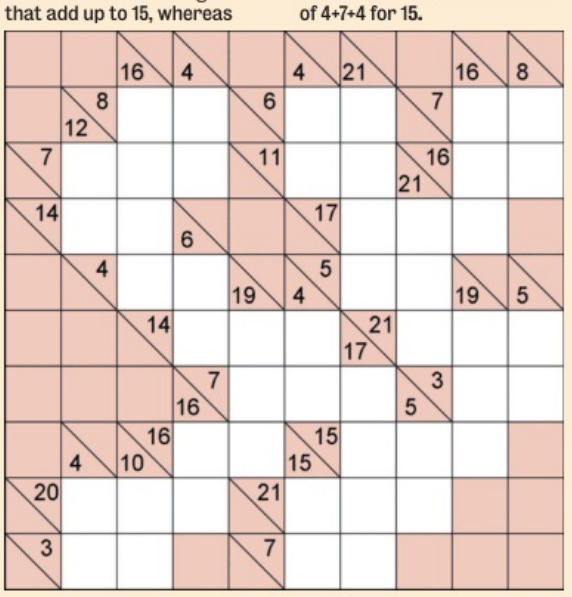
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

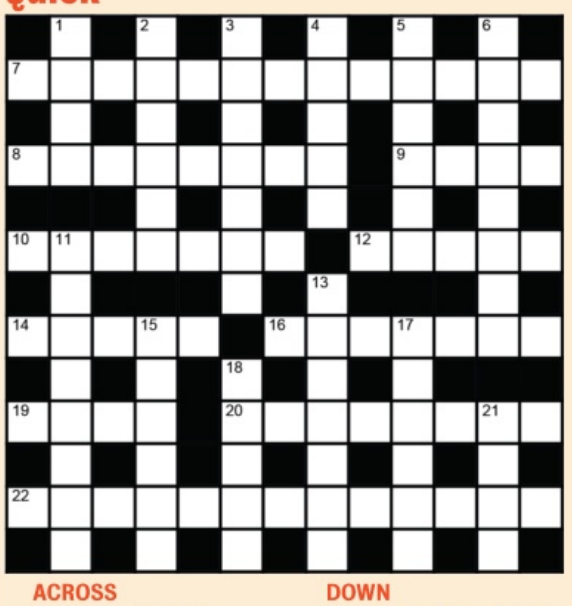


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 An uncompromising attitude (13)
8 Current-not passe? (2,2,4)
9 _ __ it : I understand this (1,3)
10 Torments, bugs or bedevils (7)
12 Train or prepare (5)
14 Measures of land (5)
16 Pop the question (7)
19 Successor (4)
20 Recommendation for a job, maybe? (8)
22 Seat of the Karnataka State legislature (7,6)

DOWN

1 Bhajan maestro __ Jalota (4)
2 Protective coat of metal (6)
3 In theory (2,5)
4 Takes on lease or on rent (5)
5 North American country (6)
6 Branches of knowledge and skilful techniques (8)
11 Ascribe or assign (8)
13 Declare openly (7)
15 Crude, unrefined (6)
17 Go after (6)
18 Mark of disgrace (5)
21 Turkish title (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS T

UTO AMRO WHD BOHIR ZYUT ZYYQR HDI VMLO MUROVL.

Linemaro

I'm no painter, but I can picture us together

Mindchow

People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf

Joke of the day

I seen a sign that said, "Have you seen this man?" So I phoned up and I said, "No."

Loop

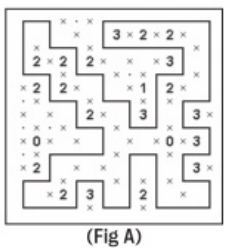
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

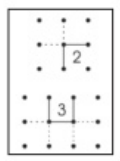
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

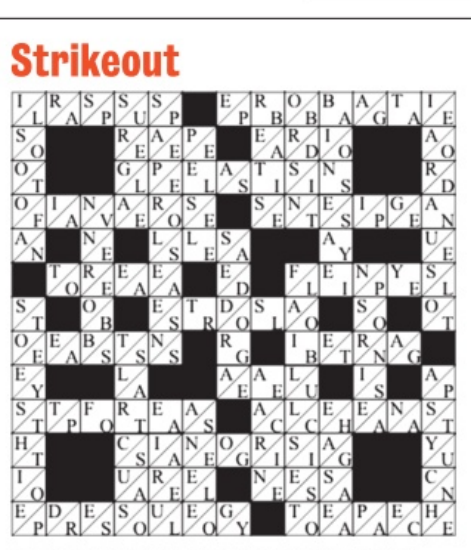


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

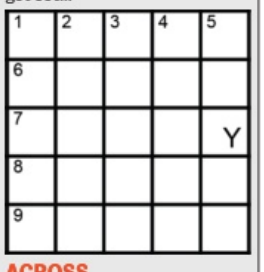
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Dac SS; 6 At tec;
7 Yemen; 8 Loner;
9 Barb I

DOWN

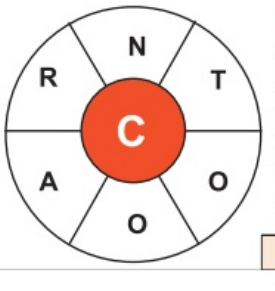
1 Terse; 2 An can;
3 Caber; 4 Be mod;
5 Silty

Mensapuzzle

In the two numerical sequences below, one number that appears in the top sequence should appear in the bottom sequence and vice versa. Which two numbers should be changed round?

2, 5, 11, 15, 47

3, 7, 23, 31, 63



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7			6		9			3
				3				
	2	3				4	1	
5	9			2			3	6
		4	9		6	8		
2	6			1			7	4
	5	2				6	4	
				8				
9			3		4			7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 11
5 6 7 7

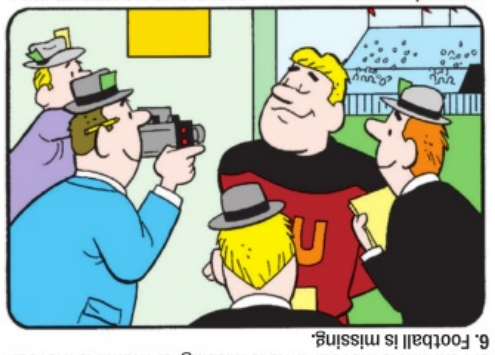
Medium = 5
3 4 6 7

Hard = 2
5 5 7 5

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



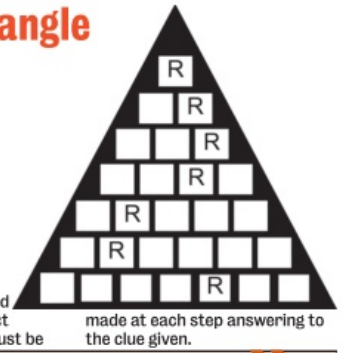
Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Camera is missing. 3. Pennant is moved. 4. Tie is missing. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Football is missing.

Riddler

It comes in on little cat's feet, Is neither sour, nor sweet. Hovers in the air, And then is not there. What is it?

Alpha triangle

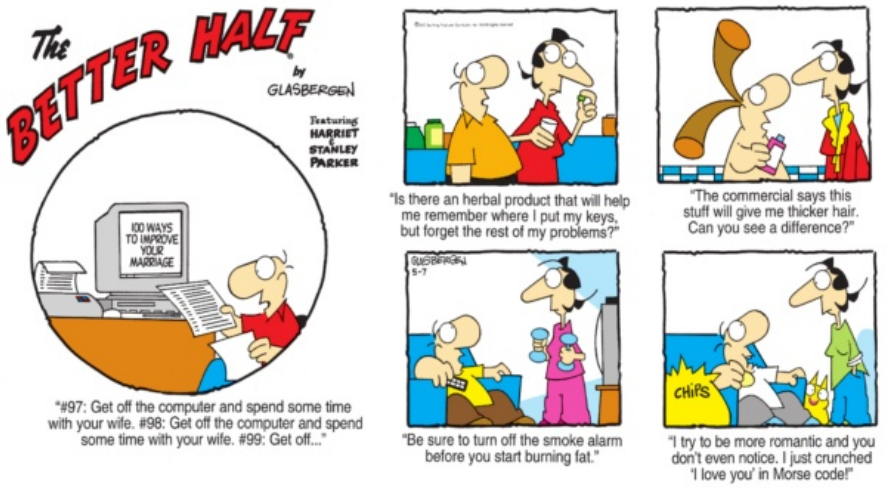
1 18th letter
2 Conjunction
3 And not
4 Foot sore
5 Emulate Sinatra
6 Type of oil
7 Computer key



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
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100 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR MARRIAGE
"#97: Get off the computer and spend some time with your wife. #98: Get off the computer and spend some time with your wife. #99: Get off..."
"Is there an herbal product that will help me remember where I put my keys, but forget the rest of my problems?"
"The commercial says this stuff will give me thicker hair. Can you see a difference?"
"Be sure to turn off the smoke alarm before you start burning fat."
CHIPS
"I try to be more romantic and you don't even notice. I just crunched 'I love you' in Morse code!"

FLASH GORDON
By JIM KEEFE
1-16
DALE ARDEN
DR. HANS ZARKOV
THE PLANET MONGO, A WORLD FRAUGHT WITH PRIMORDIAL TERRORS...
OF WHICH THE THREE EARTHBORN ADVENTURERS ARE ABOUT TO BE REMINDED.
DR. ZARKOV, SEND A MESSAGE TO KING BARIN THAT WE SHOULD BE ARRIVING IN ALANIA BY NIGHTFALL.
FLASH, I'M PICKING UP SOMETHING ON RADAR.
I SEE IT... IT'S A MONSTER FROM THE DEEP!
THERE'S NO TIME TO OUTMANEUVER!
HANG ON...
...IT'S COMING RIGHT FOR US!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, Jupiter and the moon bless you, indicating rewards for your social efforts. Seniors appreciate you, potentially leading to promotions. Losses could turn into profits, boosting business liquidity. Consider investing more in the family business for future growth.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You feel happy and healthy today, bolstering inner strength and confidence. Upholding your reputation, you steer clear of messy tasks. Expect increased social prestige.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Guard against disappointment and arrogance today. Exercise caution in communication to avoid losses. Love birds should handle discussions carefully to maintain harmony in relationships.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Enjoy peace of mind today. Investing in business could improve liquidity and financial health. Romantic moments with your spouse enhance family harmony. Singles may find a suitable match, and students receive favourable karma.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Happiness reigns as losses transform into profits. Seniors appreciate your work, possibly leading to promotions or changes in responsibilities. Hidden enemies are under control. Singles and love birds may contemplate marriage decisions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Blessed with a positive moon, your health is good. Consider a visit to a religious place or donating to charity. Property deals may proceed, and overseas travel related to work is possible.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Beware of conspiracies and controversies. Maintain willpower and seek elders' blessings to overcome challenges. Avoid arguments in love life and reckless driving.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Find happiness and peace of mind today. Focus on goals and enjoy romantic moments with your spouse. Domestic matters may demand attention.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Enthusiasm drives good performance at work, possibly leading to new responsibilities or promotions. Expect positive news in legal matters and control over adversaries.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Easily tackle difficult tasks today, boosting confidence. Prior investments yield gains. Avoid unnecessary arguments to save time.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today might be challenging; avoid impulsive decisions and practice patience. Take care of your parents and prioritise their well-being.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Enthusiasm fuels goal-oriented focus, potentially leading to success. Short work-related trips prove beneficial with support from colleagues and friends.

KIDZONE

Shameel Basha, 9 Years, Parijatha English School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(9/100)^2 = 81/10000 = 0.0081 = 0.81/100 = 0.81%

RIDDLER
Fog or mist

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	D	S
T	A	C	E	T
E	N	R	O	L
E	N	E	M	Y
R	A	B	B	I

QUOTE UNCODE
The wise man reads both books and life itself.

STRIKE OUT

L	A	P	U	P	P	R	O	B	A	T	E			
O		U		E		E	S	S			C			
S	A	N	G	R	I	A					Y			
S	P	O	R	E	S		C	L	E	A	N	S		
Y		A			E	A	U		I		P			
O	A	S	T	S		R		B	E	R	G			
T		B		S	T	O	L	A		O		T		
T	R	E	E		D		F	I	N	E	S			
A		E		L	E	A		A			E			
F	I	V	E	R	S		E	N	S	I	G	N		
O			G	E	L	A	T	I	N			R		
O		R	E	E		A	D	D	O			A		
P	R	E	S	L	E	Y		T	E	A	C	H		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
15 and 23 should be exchanged. Both sequences progress × 2 + 1.

BULL'S EYE
acorn, actor, cant, cart, carton, CARTOON, coat, contra, coon, coot, corn, corona, croon, raccoon, taco

SUDOKU

9	8	1	3	6	4	5	2	7
4	7	6	2	8	5	3	9	1
3	5	2	7	9	1	6	4	8
2	6	8	5	1	3	9	7	4
1	3	4	9	7	6	8	5	2
5	9	7	4	2	8	1	3	6
6	2	3	8	5	7	4	1	9
8	4	9	1	3	2	7	6	5
7	1	5	6	4	9	2	8	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Or, Nor, Corn, Croon, Croton, Control.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 6 − 7 + 5 = 11
Medium
6 / 3 − 4 + 7 = 5
Hard
7 − 5 − 5 + 5 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

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Birthday blessings
Actress Kangana Ranaut, who is celebrating her 37th birthday on Saturday visited the Bagalamukhi Temple in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, seeking blessings from the goddess

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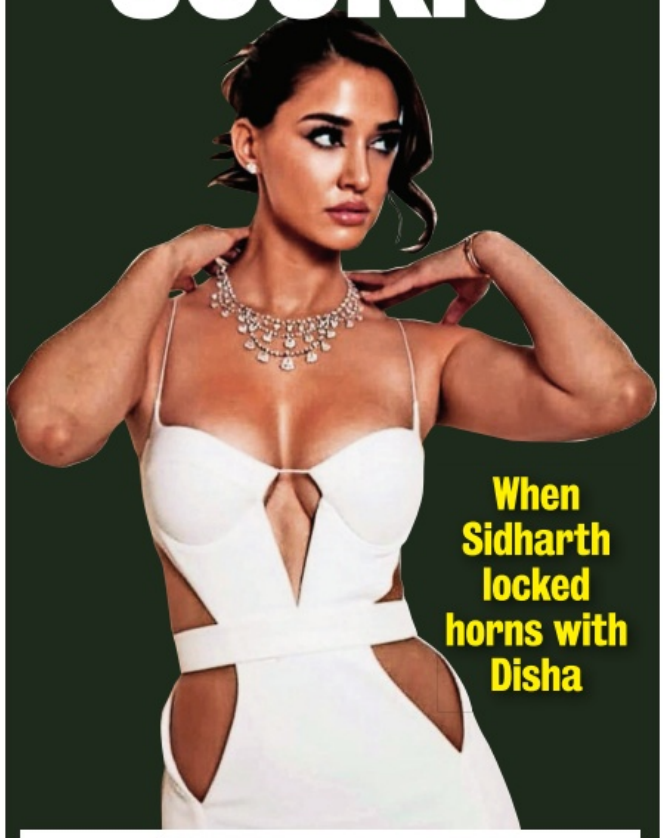
Tough cookie



When Sidharth locked horns with Disha

Sidharth Malhotra, Disha Patani and Raashii Khanna starrer 'Yodha' has been receiving positive reviews from all sides. The film has Sidharth and Disha locking horns with each other.

Talking about pulling off physical action scenes opposite an actress, Sidharth said, "This is the first time I am doing hand-to-hand combat with an actress and she is playing a very hard-core character.

Disha is somebody who is extremely fit and agile. She practices kicks and punches regularly so she is a tough cookie to crack."

Elaborating further, Disha added, "The best part about playing Laila a saree was an iconic moment for me. We had so much fun physically fighting with each other."

The adrenaline-pumping action thriller movie centers around Arun Katyal, the leader of an elite unit called the Yodha Task Force, embarking on a gripping rescue mission. Produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Shashank Khaitan, the film promises an electrifying experience. An OTT giant has revealed Yodha will be available for streaming on its platform following its theatrical release.

–ETimes

Oh yes

Actress Kriti Sanon, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Crew', gave her nod to the film even before hearing the second half of the script.

As the film is just a week away from its release, the writers of the film Mehul Suri and Nidhi Mehra shared the interesting insight about Kriti getting on board for the film.

Directed by Rajesh A. Krishnan, 'Crew' is a comedy heist film and also stars Tabu and Kareena Kapoor Khan in the lead.

Elaborating on the same, Mehul Suri and Nidhi Mehra said: "Kriti couldn't just stop laughing when she heard the script, found it extremely funny. She liked it so much that she agreed to the role right away, without even hearing the whole story. Her genuine reaction proved just how hilarious the script really is."

–IANS

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